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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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STADIS

FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM ONLY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT AR CI PA UY

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

ARA/SC ASDAR FOR MARCH 26

(S) ARGENTINA: ISRAELI EMBASSY SUSPECTS. EMBASSY B.A.
REPORTS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT IS CLOSE TO
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RELEASING FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE THE FOUR PAKISTANIS
DETAINED LAST WEEK FOR QUESTIONING. LAB TESTS SHOWED
TRACES OF EXPLOSIVES FROM SAMPLES OF THE SUSPECTS'
CLOTHING AND FROM THEIR APARTMENT BUT INTERNATIONAL
EXPERTS ASSISTING THE POLICE BELIEVE THE TESTS WERE
TAINTED. THE GOA SEEKS TO HOLD THE FOUR ON SUSPICION OF
TRAVELLING ON FALSE PASSPORTS WHILE IT CONTINUES TO
INVESTIGATE THE BOMBING. (FARRAR)

(S) ARGENTINA: NEXT STEPS ON CONDOR. AMBASSADOR PFIRTER

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TOLD CHARGE WALSH THE GOA LIKELY WOULD NOT NEED A U.S. TEAM TO DESTROY THE CONDOR MOTORS AND CASINGS BUT RATHER A U.S. EXPERT OR TWO TO PROVIDE ADVICE AS NEEDED WHILE THE GOA DESTROYS THE COMPONENTS. THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WOULD ASSIST THE CIVILIAN SPACE AGENCY (CONAE) WITH THE DESTRUCTION. PFIRTER FAVORS DESTROYING THE COMPONENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MTCR QUAD VISIT NEXT MONTH TO EMPHASIZE THAT CONDOR IS AN INTERNATIONAL NONPROLIFERATION ISSUE. PFIRTER WAS TO MEET LATER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DI TELLA AND PROMISED A DEFINITIVE REPLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (FARRAR)

(C) CHILE: POLITICAL ESPIONAGE CRISIS CONTINUES. LATE YESTERDAY IT WAS REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY THAT THE ARMY--TO PROTEST ALLEGATIONS THAT ITS INTELLIGENCE UNIT (DINE) WAS INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ESPIONAGE AGAINST NATIONAL FIGURES--HAD ORDERED AN ACUARTALAMIENTO, I.E. ALERT OR CALL TO THE BARRACKS. THE EMBASSY LATER LEARNED THAT THIS WAS A FALSE RUMOR. THE EMBASSY NOW SURMISES THAT THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND MAY HAVE DISCUSSED, THEN ABANDONED THE IDEA OR LEAKED IT AS A SCARE-TACTIC TO SHOW ITS IMPATIENCE WITH
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CHARGES MADE PUBLICLY BY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY SANCHEZ. WHEN THIS CRISIS FINALLY BLOWS OVER, THE POLITICAL PARTIES MAY PRESS FOR LEGISLATION TO INTRODUCE CONTROLS OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S INTELLIGENCE FUNCTION.
(STEVENS)

(C) REGIONAL: DAO/SAO CONSOLIDATION FACES HURDLES. IN A MEETING WITH FMP AND D STAFF TODAY WE LEARNED THAT DOD OPPOSITION TO DAO/SAO CONSOLIDATION HAS MADE A STRONG IMPRESSION ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR. PHIL AND BOB GELBARD WILL PRESS DOD HARD TO PRESERVE THE CONSENSUS WE THOUGHT WE HAD ON CONSOLIDATION IN MONTEVIDEO BUT IT WILL BE AN UPHILL BATTLE.

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